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recognizes Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this is the last time I will have that I can speak on this, because we have three opportunities. But should I not complete it, or if somebody felt that they were of a mind to grant me a little more time, then that would be appreciated. Last year we enacted a bill that would grant modest increases to constitutional officers, to Executive Department officers. I don't believe there was a one of them with whom I got along, so to speak. But I had offered the bill. I believe in being fair with people, and not doing anything to demean the office. Since individual salaries cannot be increased during their term of office, those who are in the executive branch cannot get a salary increase for four more years. Nebraska, which is not something of which I think it ought to be proud, ranks very low on the scale in terms of how Executive Department officers are compensated. If a point is reached when we decide to do something, we have fallen so far behind already that I know the Legislature is not going to be of a mind to grant a salary increase of the magnitude that would be justified. If we do these things on an incremental basis, as we go along, it's not only the fair thing to do for those who are being compensated, but it is the wise fiscal course for the Legislature to follow. Senator Wehrbein continues to remind us, and I think after he has said it twice then I even got the message. I applauded him the first time, not he's starting to get on my nerves (laughter). But this is a bill which is reasonable. Senator Wehrbein did not say the bill is unreasonable. He's placing it in the context of other expenditures. What we as a body will have to do is recognize that all expenditures are not created equal. All expenditures don't carry the same degree of justification. There is in my opinion a necessity that we act at this time. If I did not believe that, my name would not be on this bill as a cosponsor. I would not be speaking in favor of it, I would be opposing it. I would be trying to reduce the amount of the increase. But there is only so much stress that a system can withstand before breakage occurs. And after the breakage occurs, it always takes more to repair than it does to maintain. People wonder how I can get four hundred and twenty-something thousand miles, Senator Redfield, out of my little Honda. Well, my philosophy has always been that oil is